

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INRE-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01
SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 MC-02 EB-08 TRSE-00
ERDA-05 COME-00 FAA-00 DOTE-00 EURE-00 /067 W
-----084849 041539Z /42

O R 041430Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1251
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 3226

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETRD, SW, UR
SUBJECT: STANSAAB ATC CONTRACT WITH USSR

REF: A) STATE 157024, B) STOCKHOLM 3224

1. THE EMBASSY HAS TALKED WITH NIKLASSON AND JOHAN LILLIEHOOK, US DESK OFFICER ON ECONOMIC QUESTIONS IN MFA. IT IS VERY CLEAR THAT THE INTENSIVE COVERAGE OF THE STANSAAB CASE HAS SURPRISED AND EMBARRASSED THE GOS. LILLIEHOOK HAD TALKED WITH GUNNAR WEDELL, PRESIDENT OF STANSAAB, AT WEDELL'S VACATION RETREAT, AND STATES THAT WEDELL WAS ALSO UPSET BY THE PUBLICITY, AS HE FEARED IT WOULD ADVERSELY INFLUENCE HIS RELATIONS WITH THE USSR. NIKLASSON ADMITTED THAT HE TALKED WITH REPORTERS BUT BELIEVED THAT HE HAD NO CHOICE. HE SAID HE HAD TRIED TO PRESENT A "FACTUAL" PICTURE OF US EXPORT CONTROLS, HAD CONFIRMED THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER HAD RAISED THE SUBJECT WITH SECRETARY VANCE, AND, HE ADDED, HAD VOLUNTEERED THAT HE THOUGHT THE STANSAAB SYSTEM HAD NO MILITARY BENEFITS FOR THE USSR. NIKLASSON THEREAFTER ALERTED THE FOREIGN MINISTER, PRESUMABLY PREPARING HER FOR THE LATER CALL FROM THE PRESS, REPORTED IN REFTEL B. NICKLASSON EMPHASIZED TO EMBASSY OFFICER THAT THE STORY HAD OBVIOUSLY BEEN CONFIDENTIAL

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BLOWN UP OUT OF ALL PROPORTION AND ASSERTED THAT "WE HAVE NO INTEREST WHATSOEVER IN CREATING ANY PRESSURES ON THE USG THROUGH THE MEDIA." HE SAID HE WAS AWARE THAT STANSAAB'S REVISED LICENSE APPLICATIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED SOON AND APPARENTLY STAND A VERY GOOD CHANCE OF APPROVAL; CONSEQUENTLY THE TIMING OF NEWS STORIES AND THEIR IMPLIED CRITICISMS WAS MOST

INAPPROPRIATE.

2. LILLIEHOOK ALSO REPORTED THAT HE HAD BEEN CALLED BY THE UNDERSECRETARY OF COMMERCE, JOHAN NORDENFALK, WHO WAS ALSO UPSET BY THE STORIES. NORDENFALK HAS LEARNED FROM THE SWEDISH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON THAT INTER-AGENCY CONSIDERATION OF THE REVISED STANSAAB APPLICATIONS IS SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 5 WITH A STRONG PROSPECT FOR APPROVAL. NORDENFALK IS CONTEMPLATING A GOS PRESS RELEASE IN THE EVENT OF THE APPROVAL.

3. REQUEST FOR GUIDANCE. THE PRESENTATION OF THIS STORY IN THE SWEDISH PRESS CONTAINS A GREAT DEAL OF MISINFORMATION AND PUTS THE US UNFAIRLY IN A BAD LIGHT. THE EMBASSY THUS FAR STANDS ON THE PRESS GUIDANCE IN PARA 3 OF STATE 157024. THERE IS SOME ADVANTAGE IN LETTING THE GOS ITSELF CORRECT THE RECORD, VIA THE PRESS RELEASE NORDENFALK IS CONTEMPLATING. WE COULD CONTRIBUTE TO ITS VALUE BY PROVIDING THE GOS THE MOST RECENT AND ACCURATE INFORMATION, SO WOULD APPRECIATE ANY UPDATING THE DEPARTMENT CAN PROVIDE. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NOT HAD PRESS INQUIRIES THUS FAR, WE COULD CONSIDER ANSWERING ANY THAT ARISE, OR ISSUING OUR OWN PRESS STATEMENT, GIVING A FEW SENTENCES OF GENERAL BACKGROUND ON US EXPORT CONTROLS AND SAYING USG IS ACTING IN ACCORDANCE WITH USUAL EXPORT CONTROL

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POLICY IN THE PRESENT CASE APPLYING IT WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION BETWEEN US AND FOREIGN APPLICANTS. EMBASSY REQUESTS INFORMATION ON CURRENT STATUS AND GUIDANCE ON HOW DEPARTMENT WOULD PREFER WE HANDLE THE PRESS.

PERRY

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 04-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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